

[No Report.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

MAY 6, 1852.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. FREEMAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported
the following bill :

A BILL

Granting to the States of Illinois and Indiana the right of way
for and a portion of the public lands to aid in the construc-
tion of a railroad from Lafayette, Indiana, via Middleport,
Iroquois county, to La Salle county, Illinois.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That the right of way through the public lands
4 be, and the same is hereby, granted to the States of Illinois
5 and Indiana, for the construction of a railroad from the
6 city of Lafayette, Indiana, via Middleport, Iroquois county,
7 to Lasalle county, Illinois; and said States shall have the
8 right, also, to take necessary materials of earth, stone, tim-
9 ber, etc, for the construction thereof, from the public lands
10 of the United States adjacent to said railroad. *Provided,*
11 That the right of way shall not exceed one hundred feet

12 on each side of the line of said road, and a copy of the
13 survey of said road, made under the direction of the legis-
14 lature, shall be forwarded to the proper local land offices
15 respectively, and to the General Land Office at Wash-
16 ington City, within ninety days after the completion of the
17 same.

1 SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That there be,
2 and is hereby granted to the States of Illinois and Indiana,
3 for the purpose of aiding in making the railroad aforesaid,
4 every alternate section of land designated by even num-
5 bers, for six sections in width on each side of said road ;
6 but in case it shall appear that the United States have,
7 when the lines or routes of said road is definitely fixed by
8 the authority aforesaid, sold any section or any part thereof
9 granted as aforesaid, or that the right of pre-emption has
10 attached to the same, then it shall be lawful for any agent
11 or agents, to be appointed by the Governors of said States
12 respectively, to select, subject to the approval of the Sec-
13 retary of the Interior, from the lands of the United States
14 most contiguous to the tier of sections above specified, so
15 much land in alternate sections or parts of sections as
16 shall be equal to such lands as the United States have sold,
17 or to which the right of pre-emption has attached as afore-
18 said ; which lands (thus selected in lieu of those sold, and
19 to which pre-emptions have attached as aforesaid, together

20 with the sections and parts of sections designated by even
 21 numbers as aforesaid, and appropriated as aforesaid,) shall
 22 be held by the said States for the use and purpose afore-
 23 said : *Provided*, That the lands to be so located shall in
 24 no case be further than fifteen miles from the line of the
 25 road : *Provided further*, That the lands hereby granted
 26 shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and the
 27 same shall be applied to no other purpose whatsoever :
 28 *And provided further*, That any and all lands heretofore
 29 reserved to the United States by any act of Congress, or
 30 in any other manner by competent authority, for the pur-
 31 pose of aiding in any object of internal improvement, or
 32 for any other purpose whatsoever, be, and the same are
 33 hereby reserved to the United States from the operation
 34 of this act, except so far as it may be found necessary to
 35 locate the routes of the said railroad through such reserved
 36 lands, in which case the right of way only shall be
 37 granted.

1 SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the sections
 2 and parts of sections of land which, by such grant, shall
 3 remain to the United States, within six miles on each side
 4 of said road, shall not be sold for less than double the min-
 5 imum price of the public lands when sold.

1 SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said
 2 lands hereby granted to the said States shall be subject to

3 the disposal of the legislature thereof, for the purposes
 4 aforesaid, and no other; and the said railroad shall be
 5 and remain a public highway, for the use of the govern-
 6 ment of the United States, free from toll or other charge
 7 upon the transportation of any property or troops of the
 8 United States.

1 SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the lands
 2 hereby granted to said State shall be disposed of by said
 3 State only in manner following, that is to say: that a
 4 quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and twenty
 5 sections, and included within a continuous length of twenty
 6 miles of said road, may be sold; and when the Governor
 7 of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior
 8 that said twenty miles of said road is completed, then an-
 9 other like quantity of land hereby granted may be sold,
 10 and so from time to time until said road is completed;
 11 and if said road be not completed within ten years, no
 12 further sales shall be made, and the land unsold shall re-
 13 vert to the United States.

1 SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the United
 2 States mail shall, at all times, be transported on said rail-
 3 road, under the direction of the Post Office Department,
 4 at such price as Congress may by law direct